

3 November 1986
OCA 86-3716

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NASA Authorization Act

1. On 31 October 1986, I received a telephone call from Bob Cox, who works with the Secretary of the Air Force, asking the Agency to take the lead with regard to seeking a veto of the above-captioned Act. I explained to him that we do not like the Act insofar as the National Space Council is concerned, but because the scope of its authority is restricted to civilian matters we are not unduly concerned. He stated that the Council does have authority respecting intelligence matters because it is to coordinate with agencies interested in national security space policy issues. He also stated that the National Security Council, Intelligence Community (IC) Staff and Secretary of Defense share this position. I told him we would speak with the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs (D/OCA) and get back to him.

2. The D/OCA, after listening to the above account, said to explain to Mr. Cox that we do not like the Act if it is interpreted as applying to intelligence issues, although we do not interpret it thusly; that the President can appoint the Director of Central Intelligence to the Council; that the Council's only authority is to coordinate, not give orders; that the Departments of Commerce and Transportation should take the lead in seeking a veto; and that the issue is more related to defense than to intelligence. I also suggested that he touch base with the IC Staff, to which he replied that he had.

3. Per the request of [] the Deputy Director for Legislation/Office of Congressional Affairs, I telephoned [] of the IC Staff to relay the same information. [] said that he had spoken with [] earlier on this date and had understood that we were going to take a back seat. He also said that initially an Air Force representative had told the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) contact that the Air Force had no objections to the Act.

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4. Lastly, I telephoned Connie Bowers of OMB to repeat that we do not particularly like the Act but are not going to seek a veto.



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Legislation Division
Office of Congressional Affairs

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